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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/704,556	11/03/2000	Benjamin J. Kwitek	KWI-003	5577

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EXAMINER

PRUNNER, KATHLEEN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3751

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/704,556

Applicant(s)

Kwitek

Examiner

Kathleen J. Prunner

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 11, 2001

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) 12-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.

8) ☒ Claims 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2

20) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- A. Species I to a writing implement, claims 1-11; and
- B. Species II to a golf club handle, claims 12-20.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claims are generic.

Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

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2. During a telephone conversation with applicant's attorney, Howard Flaxman (Reg. No. 34,595), on December 10, 2001 a provisional election was made **without** traverse to prosecute the invention of species I to the writing implement, claims 1-11. Affirmation of this election **must** be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 12-20 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Specification

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 250 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 250 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns", "The disclosure defined by this invention", "The disclosure describes", etc.

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it repeats information given in the title and it uses an implied phrase, i.e., "is disclosed". Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

5. The following informalities in the claims are noted: (A) in claims 1-11, on line 1, "A writing" should read --The writing--; (B) in claim 2, on line 1, --is-- should be inserted after "grip"; and (C) in claims 6 and 11, on line 1, "viscoelastic" should read --viscous--. Appropriate correction is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McCall et al. McCall et al. disclose a writing implement having all the claimed features including a writing implement 10 having a main body 12 having a gripping portion upon which a grip 16 is mounted, the grip 16 having a longitudinally extending tubular shell or sleeve (note lines 59-60 in col. 5) having an inner surface which would abut the main body 12 of the writing implement 10 and an outer surface about which a viscoelastic hand/finger surface is formed (note lines 59-62 in col. 5 and lines 30-49 in col. 4). With respect to claim 2, McCall et al. also disclose that the grip is removably mounted upon the writing implement (note lines 61-62 in col. 5). With regard to claim 7, McCall et al. further disclose that the grip can be integrally formed with the main body 12 of the writing implement 10 (note Figs. 6 and 7 from line 63 in col. 4 to line 7 in col. 5). With respect to claims 3 and 8, McCall et al. additionally disclose that the viscoelastic surface is a solid-phase polymer material (note lines 35-40 in col. 4). With respect to claims 4 and 9, McCall et al. also disclose that the viscoelastic surface is a thermoplastic elastomer (note lines 52-60 in col. 4). With regard to claims 5 and 10, McCall et al. further disclose that the viscous material is contained within an elastomeric bag or bladder (note lines 59-61 in col. 5). With respect to claims 6 and 11, McCall et al. further disclose that the viscous

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material is a silicone-based substance such as grease (note lines 35-37 in col. 4 and lines 17-20 in col. 5).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hashimoto et al. is cited to show a grip made of silicone oil or silicone gel.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Kathleen J. Prunner whose telephone number is 703-306-9044. Although the examiner participates in the maxi-flex program, she can usually be reached Monday through Friday from 5:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory L. Huson, can be reached on 703-308-2580. The FAX phone number for the organization where this application is assigned is 703-308-7766.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.



Kathleen J. Prunner:kjp

December 27, 2001



GREGORY HUSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700